

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of the claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method for immunizing an infant mammal against a target antigen, comprising inoculating the infant mammal with an effective amount of a naked recombinant nucleic acid encoding a relevant epitope of the target antigen in a pharmaceutically effective carrier, such that the therapeutically effective amount of the relevant epitope is expressed in the infant mammal, and wherein the infant mammal is immunized within the age of birth to six months.
2. (Currently amended) A method for inducing a cytotoxic T cell response against a pathogen in an infant mammal, comprising inoculating the infant mammal with an effective amount of a naked recombinant nucleic acid encoding more than one relevant epitope of one or more target antigen associated with the pathogen in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, such that the therapeutically effective amounts of the relevant epitopes are expressed in the infant mammal, and wherein the infant mammal is immunized within the age of birth to six months.
3. (Cancelled).